

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Method for installing a machine unit foundations (1) and/or rolling stands (2) in an existing production line of a hot rolling mill and/or for putting them into service in such plants, comprising the steps of:

prefabricating a where the machine foundation (1) is prefabricated, and required or interacting;

assembling the machine units unit comprising the machine foundation (1) and a rolling stand mounted on the machine foundation are prefabricated and preassembled or assembled on site next to the production line (4) of the hot rolling mill, whereupon these machine units are inserted; and

inserting the machine unit into the production line (4) as a completely functional complete modular unit, wherein the step of assembling includes constructing the machine unit as a complete modular unit including the machine foundation block (1), wherein all the associated drive elements, control elements, fastening elements, as well as pipes, cables, and other pieces of equipment

necessary for operation are installed or assembled on the machine/foundation block before insertion into the production line (4), wherein the preassembled installation is subjected to a preliminary test run on site before it is inserted into the production line (4).

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) Method according to Claim 1, wherein the machine foundation block (1) with the completely assembled and operationally ready rolling stand machine unit/rolling stands (2) is moved into place along at least two displacement tracks (5).

4. (Previously presented) Method according to Claim 3, wherein the displacement is carried out in steps alternating between a left displacement axis and a right displacement axis.

5. (Currently amended) Method according to Claim 3, wherein the machine foundation block (1) to be displaced is raised; slideways are inserted between the machine foundation block (1) and the displacement tracks (5); and the machine

foundation block (1) is displaced and then lowered after reaching its final position.

6. (Currently amended) Method according to Claim 5, wherein pairs of intercommunicating double presses are used to raise and lower the machine foundation block (1).

7. (Currently amended) Method according to Claim 6, wherein the presses for raising the machine foundation block (1) are supported on lifting points / lifting surfaces (9, 10, 11) embedded in the displacement tracks (5).

8. (Currently amended) Method according to Claim 6, wherein the presses for lowering the machine foundation block (1) in the final position are supported on lifting points / lifting surfaces embedded in the displacement tracks (5).

9. (Currently amended) Method according to Claim 5, wherein the machine foundation block (1) is horizontally aligned in the final position on the basis of reference marks on the rolling stand axes.

10. (Currently amended) Method according to Claim 5,  
wherein the machine foundation block (1) is vertically aligned in  
the final position on the basis of reference marks.

11. (Currently amended) Method according to Claim 5,  
wherein the machine foundation block (1) is finely adjusted  
around its transverse axis.

12. (Previously presented) Method according to Claim 1,  
wherein the foundations of a roll-changing area are at least  
partially constructed and installed as prefabricated reinforced  
concrete structures.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Currently amended) Method according to Claim 1,  
wherein the machine foundations are partially or completely  
constructed as prefabricated reinforced concrete structural  
elements in the assembly area of the machine foundation block (1)  
to be displaced, so that they can later be used as a base for new  
machine foundations.